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issued to 4 steamships having an aggregate personnel of 230 crew and 90 passengers. Excluding Formosa, Japan is free from cholera and plague. In some localities smallpox prevails to a limited extent. In Nishiwagun, near the town of Matsuyama, in Skikoku, 16 new cases of this disease occurred on the 16th instant. One of the Russian prisoners detained at Matsuyama was attacked by the same disease on the 15th instant.

A bill has been introduced in the Diet proposing legislation of a rather stringent character, which has for its object the more strict control by the central Government of the drug business in Japan.

During the week ended February 18, 1905, bills of health were issued to 6 steamships having an aggregate personnel of 918 crew and 856 passengers; 354 steerage passengers were bathed and their clothing was disinfected; 402 intending emigrants were examined with special reference to their freedom from any loathsome or dangerous contagious disease.

Reports of communicable diseases in Yokohama have been received at the consulate-general as follows:

For the week ended February 11, enteric fever, no cases; 1 death. For the week ended February 18, enteric fever, no cases; 1 death; diphtheria, 8 cases, 1 death.

The most important sanitary event of the week has been the discovery of a plague-infected rat in Tokyo (Fukagawa Ku). Subsequently, on the 24th instant, pest bacilli were found in five other rats sent in from the same district. The authorities, in view of the gravity of the situation, are taking prompt and vigorous measures, involving, it is stated, the isolation and disinfection of some 400 houses. The city of Tokyo has been free from human plague for a period of about two years, hence the origin of the present outbreak among rats is causing some speculation.

A case of smallpox was reported from Kobe on the 22d instant.

*Emigrants recommended for rejection.*

Number of emigrants per steamship *Mongolia* recommended, February 17, 1905, for rejection: For Honolulu, 6; for San Francisco, 1.

MEXICO.

*Report from Monterey—Mortality and sanitary conditions during the year 1904 in Monterey and State of Nuevo Leon—Mosquitoes believed to have been destroyed by frosts—Proposed waterworks and sewerage system.*

Consul Hanna reports, March 17, as follows:

*Mortality, 1904.*—Deaths in the State, 2,299; in Monterey, 629. Rate of mortality per each 1,000 inhabitants, 7.01; children from birth to 1 year old, 846 deaths; children under 5 years old, 1,127 deaths.

The largest death rate existed among children, most of whom were of poor families, who were poorly housed and comparatively poorly fed and clothed. The winter having been unusually cold and damp largely accounts for the high death rate among the children of that class.

## SANITARY CONDITIONS.

The sanitary condition of Monterey has been greatly improved; the parks, the market place, the patios, and the streets are kept in a much cleaner condition than ever before. Heavy frosts were frequent throughout the whole of northern Mexico extending to the Gulf coast during the months of December, January, and February. It is believed by medical men and others that the frosts were sufficiently severe to destroy the mosquitoes, thereby preventing the reappearance of yellow fever in this part of the country during the coming summer.

Work has already begun toward establishing new waterworks and sewerage system in Monterey. Nearly all the large cities within this jurisdiction are planning for water and sewerage systems.

## PANAMA.

*Report from Colon—Method of fumigating vessels in harbor—Mortality—Statement of yellow-fever cases and deaths—Inspection of vessels.*

Acting Assistant Surgeon Mohr reports, February 14 and 15, as follows:

During the months of February and March 4 ships have been fumigated in the harbor with safety and dispatch. In the case of 3 of these vessels fumigated for the purpose of killing mosquitoes, the pots were placed in the living quarters and fired, and the compartments were sealed while the vessel was still lying at the dock, but proceeding at once to an anchorage in the open bay. In one instance, that of the steamship *Eddystone* from Para, Brazil, which underwent a general fumigation for the purpose of killing rats and vermin, the vessel did not come alongside the dock, but all the material was taken out in a rowboat, and that during a rather high sea. In this case the fumigation lasted twenty-four hours.

These vessels were thus treated during what may be called the most unfavorable season of the year without accident or delay. We are now approaching the rainy season, during which the sea remains calm for months.

*Mortality—Statement of yellow-fever cases and deaths.*

During the week 11 deaths have been reported from the following causes: Malaria, 1; dysentery, 2; encephalitis, 1 (Colon hospital); aneurism, 1; colic, 1; diarrhea, 2; inflammation of liver, 1; volvulus, 1 (Colon hospital); gunshot wound, 1.

The 2 cases of yellow fever reported last week in Colon are still in hospital and are doing well. Although one of these is now known to have originated here, no new cases have been reported since and no suspects found.

In Panama the situation remains unchanged, as new cases are still being reported from time to time. The following cases and deaths have occurred during the past week: Case No. 1, reported last week, died on March 10; case No. 2, reported last week, died on March 10.

*New cases.*—Case No. 5, Spaniard, taken sick March 5, admitted to hospital (Ancon) March 10, died March 12; case No. 6, Frenchman,